

# The Great Evil

## Naturalizing Aliens, discovered by the Cityes REPLY to the Aliens PETITION

The Sum of the said Aliens Petition consists of three particulars:

- I. *That their Naturalization will not be destralltive to the Trade of the Kingdom.*
- II. *Nor to the Revenue of His Majesty.*
- III. *Nor to any Corporation.*

**T**Hese three Positions the Aliens endeavor to make good by several mistaken and untrue Assertions, the which are refuted by the City as followeth:

First, The Aliens acknowledge that former Parliaments have not naturalized to many Aliens, and herein we agree with them; as also, that the practice of former Parliaments is no Rule for this Parliament, who can make such Laws as in their wisdoms they think fit; and therefore though the few persons naturalized in former times, not being Merchants, were made equal in Priviledges by former Acts; yet those Acts to a few despoiling ancient Aliens, is no unalterable Rule or Argument, that all persons naturalized, though Merchants, should be ad-

mitted to like Priviledges, or that twenty or forty, or all the trading Aliens, should be admitted to equal Priviledges in all things with Natives. The Parliament are Masters of their own Grace; and if these Gentlemen be so far naturalized, as to be made English Subjects, and capable of buying Lands amongst us, and protected to Trade, paying Custom and Duties as Aliens, this is more then the Parliament owes them: And thus with the Twenty thousand pound saved by their pretended Naturalizations, will (as we conceive) be ample recompence for the ten or twenty pound *per man*, paid in the Protestors time for their Naturalization; and having had a hundred for one, have no such cause to complain of their penyworths, as others who adventured in the same bottom by Purchases from those usurping Powers: and we do hope His Majesty and the Parliament will so limit their Act of Grace unto these Aliens, if they think fit to grant any, that Grace and Favor to Aliens shall not be Loss and Ruine unto the Natives of this Kingdom.

To the first of the said Aliens Positions, we do averre, That the Trade of this Kingdom, as to the Natives, will be undoubtedly wounded and lost, if Aliens be Naturalized without providing a difference in Customs between them and Natives. For themselves do confess in their printed Paper presented to the Parliament, That the English Merchants have both inclinations and stocks sufficient to drive the Trade of the Kingdom, as well in respect to the Vent of the Native Commodities and Manufactures, as also to a full Supply of the Kingdom with Foreign Commodities, and need not their number to make a Trade. And as true it is, Trade will not be advanced so, nor the number of Merchants increased by naturalizing these Gentlemen, but the Trade will be transplanted from Natives to Aliens; for they that can buy and sell best cheap, shall be sure at last to get the whole Trade. Now these Gentlemen (if naturaliz'd) will have *6 per Cent.* advantage in Trade above the Natives, in the Interest of the Moneys with which they trade, these employing their fathers and brothers abroad, and in Assurance; and therefore will be able when they please, to undersell the Natives. To instance,

stance in one of the said particulars, *William Carbonel*, one of the said Suiters to be Naturalized, hath a brother and other Aliances who are Burgers of *Caen* in *Normandy*: If this *William* be a Burger here, then what ever they two and partners trade for, shall be bought and sold at the best hand both here and there, and pay the least Duties in both places, a Priviledge which no English man can attain unto. And as it is with this Gentleman, so with *Gerat. Vanhuson*, and the rest of them; and when by this and like means, Aliens have got the English Trade, they then enhaunce the most useful commodities we shall have need of, and make the English Trade but a drudge and stalling-horse to advance the Trade of their own Countreys. To give a plain instance: A man that hath 20 l. *per Annum* Lands of his own, and for his more employment takes a Farm adjoining, this man will be sure to keep his own Free-hold-Land in good heart and plight, and will use his Farm to make his Free-hold better: and thus will these Gentlemen do; the law of Nature tyés a man to love his Native Countrey best, and 'tis engraven with indelible Characters in every mans heart so to do; these Gentlemen will not have their affections changed, nor their Alliances extinguished by Naturalization; witness their maintaining and continuing a distinct Body from the English these three years, although (as they say) Naturalized, as appears by their Certificates presented to the Honorable Committee, whereby it is certified, that they are all either Members, Elders, or Deacons of the Dutch and French Churches, and so separate, although Naturalized; and not six of them have raised Families (by Inter-marriages) with English, but most of them that are married, have sought out Dutch and French-mens daughters.

To the second, His Majesty and the Parliament by the late Act of Tonnage and Poundage, have thought fit to charge double Customs upon Cloth, and all sorts of Manufactures and Native Commodities exported by Aliens; and upon Wines imported, a third part more than Natives; and upon all other Commodities, a fourth part more than Natives; and surely then, if any one Alien be by Naturalization exempted from payment thereof,

thereof, it must needs be a diminution of His Majesties Revenue in a proportion; but if twenty, forty, sixty, or all the Trading Aliens be freed, it will be a very great loss unto His Majesty in His Customs; and it will appear, that though through the exorbitancy of the Power in 1657. the Customs were then much raised, yet the yearly Revenue was more before 1657. then afterwards when these Gentlemen were naturalized, so that experience tells us these Gentlemen are no increasers of the Trade of England. For proof whereof, we referre our selves to His Majesties Officers for the Customs, and to the Experiences of two former Ages of our Ancestors, left to us recorded amongst our Statutes, viz. the Statute of the 1 of Hen. 7. Cap. 2. in these words: *Where as in time past divers Grants have been made by King Edward, as well by his Letters Patents, as by Acts of Parliament, to divers Merchants strangers born out of this Realm, to be Denizens, whereby they have and enjoy such Freedoms and Liberties, as do denizens born within the said realm, as well in abatement of their Customs which they should bear, if they were no Denizens, as in buying and selling of their Merchandize to their great avail and lucre, and oft times suffer other Strangers, not Denizens, deceitfully to ship and carry great and notable Substance of Merchandize in their names, by the which the said Goods be free of Custom, in like wise as they were Goods of a Denizen, where of right they ought to pay Customs, as the Goods of Strangers; by the which they be greatly advanced in riches and honor, and after they be so enriched, for the most part they convey themselves with their said Goods into their own Countries, wherein they be naturally born, to the great impoverishing of this Realm, and to the great hurt and defraud of the Kings Highness, in payment of his Customs: Wherefore it is Enacted, Established, and Ordained, by the Advice of the said Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons in the said Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That any person made, or hereafter to be made Denizen, shall pay for his Merchandize like Custom and Subsidy as he ought or should pay afore that he were made Denizen, Any Letters Patents, or other Ordinances by Parliament, or otherwise contrary to this made, notwithstanding.*

And

And forty years after upon the like occasion, by the Statute of 22 Hen. 8. Cap. 8. it is recited, *That the said Aliens in their luere and avail have been increased to great and notable Substances and Riches, and the natural Subjects of our said Sovereign Lord and his Realm, greatly impoverished; and after they be enriched, for the most part convey themselves with their said Goods to their own Countrey wherein they be naturally born, to the great detriment of the Common-weal of this Realm of England, and the Subjects of the same, as by the said Statutes, and the Statute of 11 Hen. 7. Cap. 14. and other Statutes may appear.*

Now surely it may be affirmed Aliens (if Naturalized) will do what Aliens so privileged did do in times past; and it appears by the aforesaid Statutes, that they did colour other Aliens Goods, and His Majesties Customs were then diminished, and the Natives were then impoverished, and the Realm was then much dammaged, when they did enjoy the Priviledge they now desire to enjoy; and its very observable, that Naturalization was chiefly used, and granted to English mens children born beyond Sea, and that our Ancestors never Naturalized Aliens, that after Naturalization traded as Merchants; although if ever Aliens should have been encouraged, it should have been then, when there were so few English Merchants, whereas alas, there is now forty times as many English Merchants; so many that they cannot all have trade to live thereby, as many Gentlemens sons put Apprentices to Merchants, can sadly testifie; And therefore we hope, that if the said Aliens be Naturalized, it shall be according to the presidents and good Example of our Ancestors, so that they pay Custom to His Majesty, and Duties to the Cities and Ports of this Nation, as if they were yet Aliens.

To the third, They say they will no way prejudice Corporations, and particularly for the Duty of Scavage and Package, for which the City payeth a Fee-Farm Rent unto His Majesty: Their respect to the City is such, that they are willing to take upon them that Duty at the same rate, nay something more than now it is farmed at: This they would never offer, but that they know



know the City can no ways accept thereof, though they should loose all their Duties; which indeed (besides the Cities just expectation of a future advance) after these troubles, will be in a great measure lost unto the City, if these persons be naturalized. Nevertheless the Governors of the City are so much true English men, as not to become Pensioners to Aliens, nor be drawn from doing their Duties, by endeavoring to prevent the Evil this Naturalization will bring upon this Kingdom, though they should lose their said Duties, which yet are considerable to them, and is their undoubted Right and Inheritance: But besides, the City by that Office, have the View and Oversight of Aliens Goods, to the end the said Aliens may carry out no Gold, or Export or Import any false, defective, or prohibited Commodities; and it would be a Breach of Trust in the City, to use these Gentlemen (who are Aliens) in this Business, and dangerous to the Nation; hereby indeed they might as well plough with the Cities Heifer, as with their Act of Naturalization, for the more accommodating their Foreign Aliances and Correspondents, and so become Masters of all with more ease and speediness.

That which they call an Advantage as to the Freedom of *London*, is now a Burthen without benefit, and the want of it will be to them an ease from bearing a part of the trouble and charge of the Government.

The Allegation, that they must buy their Goods of Citizens at the second hand, is a meer delusion; for the Goods being made in the Countreys, they buy them of the Makers, and have them directly sent unto their houses.

And whereas they say, The proposal for the Incorporating the whole Trade of Woollen Manufacture, will deprive the King of all Aliens Customs, and is designed to draw the whole Trade into some few particular hands: We say, First we never intended to exclude any free English Merchant out of the said Corporation; and were the said whole Trade of Exportation in their hands onely, the Kings Revenue would thereby receive a greater Improvement, then the Aliens Customs outwards, because

cause the full return of principal and profit, for what was then exported, would be infallibly imported again, and make a great addition to the common Stock of the Nation; whereas what is exported by Aliens, the profit thereof, and part of the principal, remains in the hands of Aliens abroad.

And whereas in other particulars, to shew their natural affection to foreign Countreys; they endeavor to recriminate this State with like practices as Foreign States are accused of, and in their most favorable construction, would thence justify them for laboring to advance their own Manufacture; we hope we may thence safely conclude, That they ought to allow this State to extend the same care to their natural Subjects, as they do unto their Manufactures, and not to communicate their Native Priviledges in common to strangers.

To the conclusion where the Aliens assert, That by the former Naturalization, and the taking lately the Oathes of Allegiance and Supremacy, they have totally lost their Priviledges in their own Countreys, and their Estates would be seized and condemned if a War should fall out, &c.

To this we answer: That Aliens made Denizens by Patent, are also bound unto our Laws; And if, as they argue, English men and all Strangers are as free in *Holland* and *France* as the Natives, then how can they loose any Priviledges by what is already passed, and returning to their Countreys, they'l then enjoy their Priviledges, and in the mean while have a double benefit? And as to the seizing of their Goods in case of a war, doubtless they'l fare much better then the English Natives; for if time be not allowed to draw away Estates, yet these Gentlemen will have a very probable, hopeful way of saving their Estates by their Fathers, Brothers, Uncles and Cousins beyond Sea; their Correspondents, when the English man by his English Factor, can have no such help or security in any such exigency. But what ever is pretended, this Design of Naturalizing these Gentlemen, being for the most part one of a Town, in the parts beyond the Seas, is (as we humbly conceive) onely a Design of the Enemies of *England*, to enervate our English trade,  
and





